CUMORAH'S

Southern Messenger

FAREWELL - TO -

THE WRIGHT FAMILY

VOL. 28 FEBRUARY, 1953 No. 2

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

Mission President's Message

GREETINGS to the Saints and friends of the South African Mission. Sister Duncan and I thrill to be with you and to send you greetings.

My mind goes back some twenty-three years to the time when, as a young missionary, I tearfully and regretfully said goodbye to you good people. As we sang, "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again," I knew that "sometime-somewhere" I would meet my South African friends again, but little did I realize it would be yet in mortality. I am grateful to the goodness of our Heavenly Father that I am privileged to associate with you once again for I truly love the saints and our friends in South Africa.

True, many changes have taken place since I laboured in the South African Mission. The children that I knew are grown up and have families of their own, and it is with sadness I learn that many of my friends are no longer with us. When I inquire about some of my former friends and learn that they have passed away, I thank our Heavenly Father for the Plan of Salvation and the knowledge He has given to us that if we will follow in the ways of truth and righteousness we will be reunited with out friends and loved ones when we leave this earthly sphere.

Although we have just recently arrived, I have found that many things have not changed during the years for which I am exceedingly thankful. You have retained your love for the Lord and your profound testimony in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Surely there is nothing more worthwhile and of value in our lives. You have retained the sweet genuine spirit of friendship and love for one another. It is truly inspiring to see again the radiance of your smiles and to feel the spirit of brotherhood and co-operativeness which is in our midst. Sister Duncan and I and our children are deeply appreciative of the welcome extended to us and for the many kind deeds and courtesies you have rendered in our behalf since we arrived. It is our desire to meet all of you soon and to get to know you personally.

On one occasion the Master was asked which is the great commandment and Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandment hang all the law and the prophets."

I feel that the saints and friends of the South African Mission are a living example of these two great commandments. I know the Lord is pleased with your works. I know His blessings have been poured down upon you, and He will continue to bless all of us if we will but obey His word and keep His Commandments.

We are grateful for the outstanding work of President and Sister Wright, and it is our prayer that through the dilligent efforts of all of us we can maintain their high standard of performance.

I sincerely hope and pray that our Heavenly Father will bless the Saints of the South African Mission, that we will be united together in the building of His Kingdom in South Africa.

By PRESIDENT LeROY H. DUNCAN.

Vol. 28 No. 2

Cumorah's Southern Messenger

FEBRUARY 1953

Editor: Leroy H. Duncan

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ELDERS VICTORS IN HOLLAND TOURNEY. — In a letter to the Church Editor received this week, President Donovan Van Dam of the Netherlands Mission tells of participation of the elders in the Invitational Basketball Tourney during "Sports Week" in Holland, which brought much acclaim to the players and favourable publicity for the Church. His letter follows:

"Our Mormon Elders team of 10 players was invited to participate in the tournament and became the champions by winning all of their games. In the first round they beat the University of Amsterdam by a score of 34 to 28. After only a one-hour rest they played again, trouncing the Leuven University five from Belgium by a score of 34 to 22. The following evening before a crowd of many hundreds they played in the finals with the University of Brussels, winning 45 to 37. The English entry, the University of Leeds, had already been eliminated by the Belgians.

"At a huge dance which climaxed the 'Sports Week' our team was presented with a large loving cup trophy upon which were engraved the names of the players who were on the team.

"Motion pictures were taken during the game and after, and these were shown throughout Holland the following week in all theatres. Much favourable publicity for our Church resulted from this splendid activity."

FINNISH MAGAZINE PRINTS ARTICLE ABOUT THE MORMONS. — A recent copy of one of Finland's better weekly magazines was received recently at the office of President David O. McKay in which a page was devoted to the visit last summer of the Church leader to that land.

The magazine was forwarded by President Henry A. Matis of the Finnish Mission.

Said the Mission President:

"One of the better Finnish writers wrote a very objective article for one of the best weekly magazines, 'Kansan Kuva-Lehti,' concerning Mormonism. This came as a direct result of your visit. The article was signed by the writer, 'Sarko,'"

The full-page article contained a picture of President McKay addressing a Finnish congregation with Elder Robert S. Peterson, an American Mormon Elder, as interpreter.

The article was entitled "Who Are the Mormons?"

ATOMIC ENERGY ENGINEER IN BISHIPRIC — Inglewood, California. — The supervising engineer for the atomic energy project at the North American Aviation Corp., Ralph G. Chalker, has been selected as second counselor in the Inglewood Stake Presidency. He was sustained at the quarterly conference last Sunday and fills a vacancy created by the death of William G. Woolley on October 3rd.

Elder Chalker, 34, is a former resident of Salt Lake City. He has been a member of the stake high council for two and a half years. Previously he served as president of the First Quorum of Elders in the Inglewood Ward. He also filled a mission for the Church in Hawaii from 1939 to 1941.

Farewell

The past four years comprise one of the happiest periods of our lives. We are truly grateful that we have been able to serve in the Mission Field, but now it is with heavy hearts that we say Farewell to our dear friends in this land. South Africa, our adopted home, is dear to us. All members of our family have lived here for many years—from six to sixteen—and we sincerely love this country where many of our finest friends reside. All of the years we have spent in South Africa have been interesting and enjoyable but the time we have presided over the Mission has been the most wonderful of all. Gospel ties of brotherhood and love bind us together. Our cup of happiness has been full while working with you.

The most important things are those of eternal value, and the most priceless gift is the Gospel of Jesus Christ which has been provided by a Loving Father and elder Brother. The most satisfying work we can imagine is to labour as humble servants of the Master. We have enjoyed our work in the Mission Field more than anything else we have ever undertaken, and are thankful for the opportunity we have had to serve. Many blessings have come to each member of our family. We are deeply grateful to the First Presidency and to our Heavenly Father for the glorious experiences we have enjoyed.

Our assignment in coming to South Africa, and our desire, has been to help build the Kingdom of God here and to bless your lives. We trust that we have made a small contribution to the work of the Lord, and that we have been worthy of your trust and confidence.

Members of the Mission Council, District and Branch Officers, as well as members throughout Southern Africa have been generous in support of us. We sincerely appreciate your loyalty and co-operation. We know of your devotion to the Church and are confident that the Lord's blessings will be added to you for your faithfulness. We have observed the fruits of the Gospel in your lives, and have been thrilled to see refining influences and joy enter the lives of new members. We have also been reassured by the steadfastness of old members to Gospel ideals and Church standards.

During our term of office we have travelled extensively among you. It has been a pleasure to meet you personally and to be in your homes. We are truly grateful for the kindnesses and hospitality which have been extended to us. Your prayers in our behalf have been sincerely appreciated and we have felt power and strength come to us from them. We appreciate your love and goodwill and assure you that we will continue to remember you in our prayers, and will follow the activities of your lives and the affairs of the Mission with great interest throughout the future.

It has been our great privilege to have more missionaries work under our direction than any others who have presided over the South African Mission. Approximately 200 choice young men and women have served with us. They have been faithful in their assignments and will be rewarded with that eternal joy which is reserved for those who humbly take the message of the Gospel to their fellows. The example of our missionaries has been an inspiration to us and our children. We are happy that our lives touched theirs.

It will be our pleasure to see most of you again before we leave to return to our home in Salt Lake City. In company with President Wright's parents we will visit Southern Rhodesia and the Transvaal, and later the coastal cities as we travel up the East Coast. We look forward with keen anticipation to seeing you once again, and are thrilled that our parents will have an

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ADIEU KIND FRIENDS, ADIEU

By ELDER W. E. BARRY MAYO

On January 1, 1953, President Evan P. Wright, after four years of leadership, turned the affairs of the South African Mission over to President Leroy H. Duncan. This is the second time in less than twenty years that President Wright has completed a successful mission in Southern Africa. In 1930 he came to this land for the first time to serve under President Dalton. While here he laboured in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town and toured the Mission as director of the M.I.A.

He returned home in 1933 and soon after set out for South Africa to start a business with two missionary companions. Between 1933 and 1948 President Wright made four trips to Africa; was married to his sweet wife at Cumorah in 1936; became the father of three children, the first of whom was born in Johannesburg; served as Branch President twice in Johannesburg and once in Atlanta Ga.

The time came when the Wright family turned their eyes toward America and set out for home intending to settle there permanently. However, their plans were changed almost immediately. Once again they started a trip to this continent, this time to represent the first Presidency of the Church.

On November 10, 1948, they arrived in Johannesburg and the President began his work by interviewing all the missionaries in that district. Since that time almost 200 missionaries have taken part in the work of the Church in this part of the world. Two hundred missionary sons and daughters who have looked to President and Sister Wright for encouragement and advice many times.

The last four years have been years of great progress for the Mission. The new offices at Cumorah, where the work of the Mission is being carried on so efficiently, were erected as a result of the effort of President Wright. Much of the initial planning for the chapels in Springs and in Johannesburg has been completed and construction of these buildings should soon be started. Among the new Branches that have been organized are: Bellville, Luanshya and Krugersdorp. For the first time missionaries have taken the Gospel to the people in Northern Rhodesia. A proselyting plan has been prepared to encourage the missionaries to present the Gospel to the Afrikaans speaking people. effective way. To aid the teaching of the Gospel to the Afrikaans speaking people several pamphlets and tracts have been published in that language. All these things testify of the great love and valiance of President Wright and his good wife.

Sister Wright has been a stable and encouraging help-mate to her husband. To her, many tasks have been assigned and one of the most difficult of these has been the work accompanying convention. Were it not for the tireless efforts of Sister Wright, the saints gathered at these meetings could not have enjoyed such Spiritual and Material Feasts. Weeks before the meetings began she had planned the menu,

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Elder Manning

Power of God Unto Salvation

By ELDER DON W. MANNING

What is the world thinking about? What is their aim in life? Do they realize that this mortal existence is short? Do they know we have a special purpose in life which requires every minute of our time? It is about time the people of the world and even the members of the Church came to the realization that there is a divine purpose for our mortal existence.

The thrills, blessings and experiences which have come to me during the last two years, while I have been engaged in missionary work, have made me very much aware of the shallowness of life which exists in the outside world.

As a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints my work has largely been amongst the worldly souls, and it has been my impression that they themselves feel there is something lacking in their lives. It is easy for one who knows the true joys of life to recognize the discontentment in those who fail to understand the true significance of life.

While standing at an intersection and observing the passing of the general public —husbands, wives, friends, sweethearts— it made me sad to see how many people looked unhappy and discontented. Only the children and an occasional couple looked pleased with life, while the majority looked like walking bundles of misery which I am sure is no contribution of joy to the heart of the Eternal Father.

Think of what percentage of the world is in this state. I have found during my labours in this country that the reason their lives are shallow and that they have no special purpose in life is because they are ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When speaking to them about the Gospel, they duck their heads with a hard look on their face, slam the door, or laugh at you. This, however, has only been a testimony to me of the truthfullness of the Gospel, and also has caused me deep concern for I know the value of souls is great in the sight of God. When I meet with these people I wish as Bringham Young did: that tongues of seven thunders would awake them.

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The Great Apostle Paul was a powerful leader among the Jews before his conversion. His greatest purpose in life was to obtain power and worldly gain. On his way to exercise that power in persecuting the Saints of that day, he was struck down and blinded by the power of Almighty God and became converted. He lived to bear one of the most powerful testimonies of all times. He instructed the Church at Rome in a mighty epistle: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth." How very true this is. The power of God is Salvation and this is found only in the Gospel of Christ. Salvation is that thing which brings hope to the lives of men and happiness in the hearts of all who grasp it.

The Apostle Paul bore testimony throughout the remainder of his life that he had obtained the great joy and happiness which made it possible for him to walk with his head held erect in any place on earth and to associate with any group of society.

To the Latter-day Saints salvation has only one objective and that is exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom of God. To obtain this salvation we must never be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must gain a profound knowledge and testimony of the

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(FAREWELL cont.)

opportunity to meet Church members throughout this land.

Before departing from South Africa we assure you of our continued desire to serve the Lord in any position we may be called to regardless of how humble it may be. We encourage you to do likewise, remembering that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong but to those who endure to the end. The Church is the vehicle by which we may work out our salvation. Continue faithful and active, honour the Priesthood, support those in authority, accept all assignments given to you and serve in a spirit of love. We earnestly counsel you to be true to the standards and teachings of the Church. Be united, support each other, faithfully keep your covenants as members of the Church, continue in family prayers, keep the spirit of the Gospel in your homes. Do all of these things and let the superiority of the Gospel light shine forth in your lives—then not only salvation but also exaltation will be your reward.

Once again we counsel you, as we have often done before, to remain in your homeland to help build the Kingdom of God here. Make South Africa one of the places of righteousness to be established in preparation of the Coming of the Lord. We promise you that if you are faithful in this work our Father will not allow you to be denied any essential blessing.

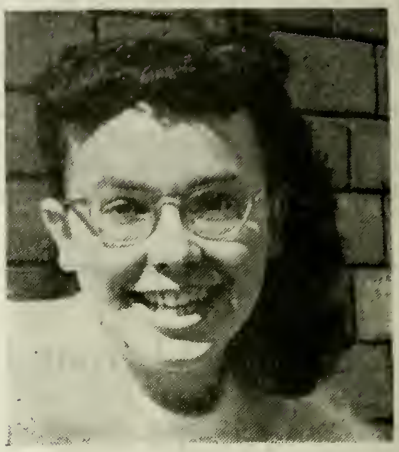
As we take our departure from among you we pray that the peace of heaven will attend you. We solemnly bear testimony that God lives. That He is a personal being who has revealed Himself to His servants. That Jesus is the Son of God, the author of the Plan of Salvation, the Redeemer of the world. We testify that salvation is available to all through obedience to the principles and ordinances of the Gospel. The Church of Jesus Christ has been reestablished on the earth. The First Presidency are prophets of God on earth to direct His kingdom and lead us, and we know that the greatest safety will come to us by following their counsel.

President and Sister LeRoy H. Duncan, worthy Latter-Day Saints, have been appointed by the First Presidency to succeed us. Already they are busy in their new assignment. We commend them to you and ask you to support them as you have supported us.

We leave our blessings with you. God bless you.

Affectionately yours,
President & Sister E. P. WRIGHT &
FAMILY.

Releases . . . .



ELDER EUGENE R. HOLMAN—was honorably released from his missionary labours on January 2nd, 1953 and sailed for home via West Coast on the "Edinburgh Castle". He embarked from Cape Town.

SISTER PAMELA A. WANDE—was honorably released from her missionary labours on January 31st, 1953 and travelled for home by train. Sister Wande is returning to Cape Town after a one month visit with her family, to work for the Jack-Bobrav Levein and Co.

ELDER HOLMAN—has served in Port Elizabeth, Plumstead, Germiston, Salisbury, back to Germiston, Malvern East, and spent his last few months labouring in the Mission Office as Mission Historian and Assoc. Editor of the C.S.M. The sincere and friendly nature which Elder Holman possessed made him a fine missionary and a friend to all. May the Lord bless him with the same fine attitude and spirit that he showed in the Mission Field as he journeys on through life.

SISTER WANDE — served as Mission Recorder, and Supervisor of the Sunday School and M. I. A. organizations.. This fine young lady made a willing contribution to the work of the Lord and was loved and respected by missionaries and members alike. In view of her short three years membership, her strong testimony and excellent knowledge of the Gospel is remarkable. She is a fine example and an influence for good wherever she goes.

Transfers . . .

ELDER RICHARD A MADSEN, was transferred from Craighall, Johannesburg, to Port Elizabeth, C.P. on January 26th, 1953 to labour with Elder Veryle B. Leavitt.

ELDER BYRON Y. LOW, was transferred from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, to East London, C.P. on January 20th, 1953 to labour with Elder Wayne J. Mendenhall.

ELDER THOMAS E. SMITH, was transferred from Southern Suburbs, Johannesburg, to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, on January 30, 1953 to labour with Elder Donald D. Salmon.

ELDER GORDON DEE COOPER, was transferred from Luanshya Northern Rhodesia, to Benoni, Transvaal, on January 31st, 1953 to labour with Elder Richard B. Murray.

ELDER KENNETH L. LEE, was transferred from Port Elizabeth, C.P. to Northern Rhodesia, on January 31st, 1953 to labour with Elder Ben R. Olsen.

ELDER MERRIL B. HANSEN, was transferred from Craighall, Johannesburg, Transvaal, to Northern Rhodesia, on January 31st, 1953 to labour with Elder Gerald E. Weinheimer.

ELDER GRANT E. OLSON, was transferred from N'Kana, Northern Rhodesia, to the Transvaal, on January 31st, 1953 to labour with Elder Michael J. Clarke.

ELDER CHARLES M. SESSIONS, was transferred from Benoni, Transvaal, to Springs, Transvaal on January 31st, 1953 to labour with Elder LaDell Bulloek.

Appointments . . .

ELDER MICHAEL J. CLARKE, was appointed Supervising Elder of the Transvaal on January 26th, 1953.

ELDER BEN R. OLSEN, was appointed Supervising Elder, and District President of the Northern Rhodesian District, on January 31st, 1953.

ELDER DONALD D. SALMON, was appointed Supervising Elder, Branch President of the Salisbury Branch, and District President of the Salisbury District, on January 15th, 1953.

Stastistics . . .

BIRTHS

CAROL ANN ROSE, daughter, was born to Neville and Natalie Howell Rose on the 19th December, 1952 at Durban.

TREVOR HUME HARRIS, son, was born to George and May Bond Harris on the 26th December, 1952 at Cape Town.

BLESSINGS

ERICA JOYCE JAKINS, the daughter of Eric and Susanna Kallis Jakins, was blessed by President Evan P. Wright on the 28th December, 1952 at the Bellville branch.

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(*BLESSINGS cont.*)

MICHAEL GEOFFREY BIBB, the son of Cecil and Sheila Harvey Bibb, was blessed by Elder Don W. Manning on the 11th January, 1953 at Pretoria.

HEDWIG ILSE THEITZ, the dauhgter of Gustaz and Elizabeth van Heynigen Thietz, was blessed by Elder Donald M. Cole on the 25th January, 1953 at Cumorah.

PAMELA LOUISE THEITZ, the daughter of Gustav and Elizabeth van Heynigen Thietz, was blessed by Elder Donald M. Cole on the 25th January, 1953 at Cumorah.

SONHOS AVRILLE RUTLEDGE, the daughter of Douglas and Lulu Hayden Rutledge, was baptized by Elder Michael J. Clarke on the 11th Janury, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Norman G. Muir at the Ramah Branch.

ELIZABETH CATHARINA VAN HEYNINGEN THEITZ was baptized by Elder Leon B. Casper on the 25th January, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Elder W. E. Barry Mayo at Cumorah.

GUSTAV WILLIAM THIETZ was baptized by Elder Leon B. Casper on the 25th January, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Elder W. E. Barry Mayo at Cumorah.

JUANITA IRENE CRIGHTON was baptized by Elder Duane H. Burtenshaw on the 4th January, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Elder Thomas E. Smith, at the Ramah branch.

BAPTISMS

NEVILLE RICHARD DOLLER, the son of Otto and Estelle Grobler Doller, was baptized by Elder Veryle B. Leavitt on the 4th January, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Clarence R. Doller at the Port Elizabeth branch.

DUNCAN RICHARD GORDON BRODIE, was baptized by Elder Michael J. Clarke on the 11th January, 1953 and confirmed on the same day by Norman G. Muir at the Ramah branch.

ORDINATIONS

JEFFREY CHARLES JAMES SPARKS was ordained a deacon by Elder R. Glen Sherwood on the 28th December, 1952, at the Bulawayo branch.

DEATHS

JOHANNES JACOBUS MINNIE, the son of Willem and Elizabeth Brummer Minnie, passed away on the 15th December, 1952 at Vereeniging.

ADIEU KIND FRIENDS, ADIEU - Cont.

then purchased and prepared the food for eighty delegates for many days. Under her direction the Relief Society of the Mission has carried on the great work for which that organization was established.

Most important of all. Sister Wright's tasks has been that of supporting her husband and caring for their children. Few men in all the world have need of finer women or better wives at their sides than those who guide the affairs of the Church in the Missions. We appreciate the wonderful example you have set Sister Wright and the great contributions you have made to the South African Mission.

The Saints in Southern Africa who have laboured with or in any way associated with this wonderful family have learned to love them and will cherish their memory long after they have gone. Surely these fine people are among those who are called the Salt of the Earth. As they prepare to leave for their home we wish them "Bon Voyage" and ask our Father in Heaven to bless them and guide them while they travel and to fill their hearts with joy throughout their lives.

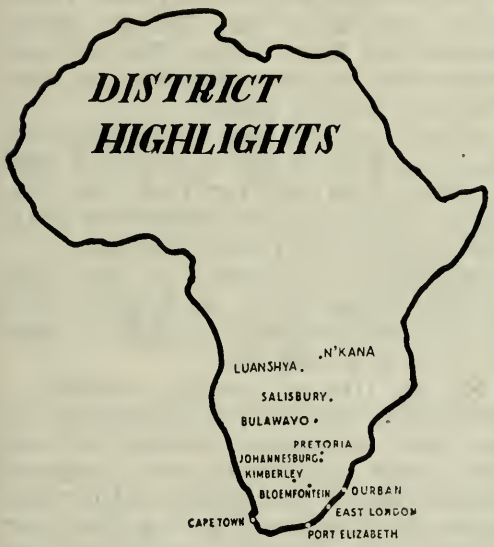
(Power of God Unto Salvation — Cont.)

gospel and adopt it in our lives, for the Lord has said: "It is impossible to be saved in ignorance."

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, remember who you are. Realize what you have in your possession, for it is the greatest power the world has ever known. By it worlds were created and by it they will be destroyed. Make your homes and your bodies the Temple of God. Keep yourselves unspotted from the world and let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Pray often to our Father in Heaven for his guiding influence and for power and strength to subdue wickedness and combat sin, for this is the purpose of life.

May God bless you all in your endeavours to serve him and to accomplish His will, and may your end of Mortality bring a reward of a glorious resurrection for Eternal Life and Exaltation in the Kingdom of our Father.



BENONI NEWS

By Richard Murray

The morning of Sunday, January 3, 1953, dawned cloudy with a steady rain falling. In spite of clouds and rain, District President I. C. Louw, District Clerk John Troskie and Sister Elizabeth van de Vyver arrived in Benoni to organize the Benoni Sunday School. They were met at the station by Mr. Charlton, who drove them to the Tom Newly School. The Lord acknowledged their effort, as the skies cleared to reveal a broad beaming sun. By the time 10 a.m. had arrived a small group of investigators had also arrived at the school to partake of the Spirit of a Latter-day Saint Sunday School Meeting for their first time.

The Meeting began with District President I C. Louw presiding and Elder Richard B. Murray conducting. The meeting followed in line with the average Sunday School Meetings, with Elder Murray giving the lesson to the Gospel Doctrine class and Sister Elizabeth van de Vyver taking the younger children to their class. The meeting was very much enjoyed by all, and we are really hoping for added numbers as time goes on. We wish to thank all those who helped in any way in the organization of a Sunday School here.

Primary has once again resumed its activities after the Christmas recess. Both children and teachers are happy that its activities are again functioning.

Although Benoni has no members as yet still the Spirit found among the investigators is one of love in the common bond of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

BLOEMFONTEIN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Ronald B. Clark, 29 Parfitt Avenue.

Reported by Barbara Wrench.

January has been a very quiet month for the Branch as many of the members have been away on holiday and others have been recovering from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

Highlight of the month was a two-day visit from President Duncan and President Wright. Their visit coincided

with the first Branch Conference of the year, and it was inspiring to hear the talks given by our Mission leaders.

We were all happy to make the acquaintance of President Duncan and would like to assure him of our loyal support during his mission here.

President Wright took the opportunity to say goodbye to the members, and we are all sorry that he has to leave us. Our love goes with the Wright family when the time comes for them to leave this country.

Branch Conference ended with a Fireside, held at the home of Brother and Sister Spear. President Duncan and President Wright both addressed us, and items were contributed by Sister Gwynne Daubney and Brother Syd Spear. This was the first Fireside held in Bloemfontein and was a great success.

We were sorry to have to bid Elder Melvin Stockdale goodbye, just as we were getting to know him, but we wish him everything of the best in his new field of labour. We would also like to welcome Elder Charles Mercer to Bloemfontein and hope that he will enjoy his stay with us.

Brother Bernard Milne paid a flying visit to this town during the month.

The Wrench family arrived back from their holiday fit and well and ready for work.

DURBAN BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Lowell D. Wood, 21 Bulwer Road, Durban.

Reported by Joyce Wahlburn.

Our Sunday School Christmas Party, held on the 23rd December, was one of the most successful social events held in this branch for a long time. There was the traditional Christmas Tree, so tall that it touched the ceiling, and laden with lovely gifts; a very gay Father Christmas (Brother Jack Seager), and tables laden with goodies to delight the little folk. Highlight of the evening was a three-act play on the Birth of Christ, staged by the Junior Sunday School. Their portrayal of the various parts was excellent. Once again we were proud of the abilities of the children of our Branch. The evening was climaxed with a shower of balloons, that brought shrieks of delight from the blissfully happy youngsters.

The members of the M.I.A. have been having a pretty busy social round during the past weeks. On the 27th December they were the guests of Mr. Roy Carlson, American Vice-Consul for Durban, at a buffet supper and private film show which was held at his home in Amanzimtoti.

The M.I.A. opening Social of the new year was in the form of a moonlight watermelon bust on the South Beach. At least that's what was intended, but unfortunately our fair city had a flood on the eve of our party so we had to substitute electric light for moonlight and Sister Fagan's flat for the beach, and we still had a wonderful time.

In the past month two new Elders have arrived in our Branch, Elder Koeven and Elder Birks. They are certainly very welcome here, and we hope they will be very happy.

Sister Elsie Neilsen of Pietermaritzburg called on us this month, and what a pleasant surprise her visit was. Another welcome visitor was Brother Harry Spear, who hails from Swaziland.

We were very sorry to hear that Brother Trestrail is in hospital once more. We sincerely pray that his stay will not be a long one.

On the 11th of January, members of the Sunday School who had 95 to 100 per cent. attendance during the past year were presented with delightful little scrolls, in recognition of their diligence in attending during the year. Brother Vic Henning was responsible for the designing and manufacturing of the scrolls, and they were presented by Elder Dale Prince, our Sunday School Superintendent.

A Teacher's Training Course has been started in this Branch. It will cover a period of three months, at the end of which the organizers, Brother Vick and Elder Wood, hope to be able to present Diplomas to those members who have qualified.

MOWBRAY BRANCH

Branch President: Daniel A. Cherrett, 14 Serpentine Road, Pinelands.

Reported by Beatrice Smith

The year opened to a flying start with everybody keen to get into the swing of things again.

The reception for President and Sister Duncan on the evening of 27th December was very well attended, and we were all delighted to greet and welcome them to South Africa.

A crowd of our young folk went camping at Crown Forest over the New Year week-end. Perfect weather was the lot of all who took advantage of the holiday to get into the open air.

As the auxiliaries have all been in recess, there has not been a great deal of activity other than social.

We have enjoyed having the Wrench family in our midst for the festive season. We also welcome Sister Berge and her children, who are spending a short time in the Peninsula. The Sawyer Family from Florida, Transvaal, and Peter Nel from Pretoria have all been down for a long visit from the Transvaal, and we all enjoyed renewing their acquaintance. Mrs. David Banfield and her daughter are other visitors from the north. We are glad that the Cape has really excelled in having wonderful weather for the benefit of our visitors.

Brother Eric Bibb has been on holiday in Pretoria.

Brother Gordon Terblanche and the Boy Scouts attended the Jamborally at Stellenbosch. They have gained much by this great experience, and we hope that they are going to put this knowledge to good use during the coming year.

The M.I.A. arranged a watermelon feast for the 13th January at Clifton. Those who attended, first had a good time eating the melons, and then worked off the extra weight gained by playing beach games.

The first of the Sunday School Faculty meetings of the year was held on the 12th of January, when the teachers were given an inspiring lesson by Sister Jones. These lessons should prove of great help in training our teachers for the task that lies ahead of them in teaching the young folk the great truths of the Gospel.

The Gospel Doctrine Class arranged a braaivleisaand at Eerste River on the 24th. This was a very jolly occasion and all had a happy time. We hope that this is only the first of many similar entertainments for the more adult group of our community.

The Meetings for Investigators started with a full house on Tuesday, the 20th, and owing to the early hour of commencement, some of us had to slip in when the proceedings were under way. There is much to be learned at these meetings that is of interest to all of us as well as to those who are earnestly seeking after the truth of the Gospel.

After this meeting, the M.I.A. members set out on a "Scavenger Hunt." The parties returned to "Cumorah" in record time with the required "junk," among which they were expected to return with a "live flea." That should not have been hard to find — even if it was a trifle elusive.

To all of those who assume the responsibilities of being officers and teachers in the various auxiliaries during 1953, we wish to extend our congratulations and to assure them that they will be constantly remembered in our prayers.

We are pleased to welcome Brother Hugh Helm after his vacation in Grahamstown. We are also glad to have Brother John Hyland back after his trip up the coast to Durban.

Sister Signe Smith has arrived in Cape Town to fill a Mission. We welcome her to our midst and hope that this experience will bring her lots of joy.

We welcome Sister Lena Park home after her holiday in the Transvaal.

It is good to see little Edwin Geldenhuis running around none the worse for his encounter with a motor-lorry. We hope that the health of Sister Barton's mother has improved and that she is perfectly well again.

We are sorry to report that the Rondebosch home of Brother and Sister Jones has been the scene of a burglary. We trust that the goods will be recovered and restored to their rightful owners.

On Sunday the 25th we welcomed the Thietz family into the Church membership and also witnessed the baptism of little Joan Shelver.

SPRINGS BRANCH

Branch President: Reaford Futter, 65 8th Street, Springs.
Reported by Mavis E. Louw.

We started the year off with a surprise party for our Branch President, Brother Reaford Futter. Almost the whole branch turned out. Everybody enjoyed themselves very much.

To the eight members of our branch who celebrate their births during the month of February we wish to say Happy Birthday, and many happy returns of the day.

Brother Vallie van Niekerk spent a month camping. We missed him at services, but he had a fine holiday judging by his beautiful suntan.

Sister Elise van der Vyver has been seconded to teach the kindergarten class in the newly-formed Sunday School in Benoni.

Brother John Troskie has started a chorus in Springs. They hope to officiate at the corner-stone laying of our chapel, which we hope to have in March.

Sister Wood, Sister Kelly, and Sisters Newell and Rostron were welcome visitors to our branch during the month.

There wasn't the usual large contingent of Springs members at the Welcome meeting held at Ramah for President Leroy Duncan. It is a pity, because they missed a real spiritual feast.

We are sorry to have to say farewell to Elder Bert Johnson, who will be leaving us at the end of the mouth. We hope he enjoyed his stay in Springs. We welcome Elder Sessions to our branch. We pray that his will be a fruitful stay.

We sincerely pray that Brother and Sister Campbell will soon be well, and be able to mix with us again. They are both to undergo operations again.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Donald D. Salmon, 17 Van Praag Avenue.
Reported by Elder Byron Y. Low.

We waved goodbye to Elder Kay Crabtree as he left on the train to visit Johannesburg and Durban before his departure for home. He embarks at Durban aboard the "Rhodesian Castle," and sails via the East Coast for home.

We welcome Elder Salmon into our midst. He was held up four days on the way due to the flood waters washing out the track near Que Que, about 130 miles from Salisbury.

We wish Sister Maxwell and family a happy holiday while she is visiting the coast near East London.

We are looking forward with keen interest for District Conference, to be held February 15th. President Duncan will be visiting here to get acquainted with all the members and to give instructions and words of counsel.

May the Lord always bless and inspire the members of this Mission to do good works, and to help build His kingdom in this land.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

Branch President: Elder Wayne J. Mendenhall, 52 Jarvis Road, Berea.
Reported by Mona McCallum.

A "Pot Luck Supper" was arranged on the 26th December at Nahoon Mouth. The weather was perfect, and there was a good turn-out and plenty of lovely food to eat. Everyone ate fruit salad off plates that had had curry and sauerkraut on and loved it! The outing was a great success and ended with games both strenuous and amusing.

Brother and Sister Melvin Jubber and family are spending a holiday at Butterworth, and we hope they are enjoying themselves.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Elder Salmon, who left East London on the 10th of January to labour in Salisbury. The children especially will miss him in Sunday School. He carries with him our very best wishes, and we hope he will be as happy in Salisbury as he was in East London.

We were very happy to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Marais and family to our meetings. They hail from Springs and were camping at the Eastern Beach.

We are sorry to report that the father of Sisters Jean and Rhona McGill has been sent to hospital for treatment, and we pray that he might soon be restored to his normal health.

East London is sweltering in a terrific heat wave, just the ideal weather for the holiday-makers, but not so good for the residents who have to sweat it out in offices, etc.

RAMAH BRANCH

Branch President: Norman G. Muir, 119 Kitchener Ave., Bez. Valley.

Reported by Mary Millan Stark

The advent of the New Year saw Ramah holding Branch Conference, when the names of the new office-bearers were submitted to the branch and unanimously sustained. The Sunday School Superintendent is Brother Alvara Phipson, with Brother William Wood and Melvin K. Muir as 1st and 2nd counselors respectively, and Sister Louise Phipson as Secretary. Margaret Kelly, with Sister Nora Newell and Sister Lilian Perreira, will officer the Y.W.M.I.A., and Brother Hans Rohde will be President of the Men's Mutual, with Duncan Brodie 2nd counselor and Loraine van der Westhuizen as Secretary. Names of other officers will be released later. With such capable members holding these offices it is anticipated that Ramah will have a highly successful and active year.

During this month the branch has had to say farewell to three members — to Sister Signe Smith, who has been called to serve a year's mission in the Mission Office in Cape Town, and to Brother Vincent and Sister Erica Ganter, who have left to settle in Canada. On the 11th a Farewell Service was held at which these members expressed their feelings at leaving and bore their testimonies. Then at a Farewell social held they were again given an opportunity to say farewell and the members joined in social activities with them.

The Ramah members had the opportunity of meeting with our new Mission President Leroy Duncan, who, accompanied by President Wright, is on a visit to the Transvaal in order to become acquainted with the missionaries and members. On the 16th instant a social was held at Ramah where President Duncan met many members who had known him when he served in the South African Mission about 25 years ago. On the 18th, members from all the branches in the District came together at Ramah to receive counsel and advice from Presidents Wright and Duncan. Although not as full as usual the attendance at Ramah was very high, and during the evening session the congregation enjoyed hearing the Ramah Choir render an item and listened to Elder Manning's farewell address. Elder Johnson also attended the last district meeting of his mission, and members are sorry to see these fine missionaries leave the Transvaal.

At baptism services held this month Nita Chrichton and Duncan Brodie and Sonhos Rutledge became members of the Church, and the hand of fellowship is extended to these sincere young people. On the 10th a fine baby boy, who will be known as John Stephen, arrived to greet his parents, Mr. and Sister Ivy Clark.

Sister M. Macadam is the new Primary Mother, with Counselors Mable Donly and Louise Phipson and Norma Ninow as Chorister and Teacher. Sister Eunice Fountain is Branch Organist, Cecil Ninow is Branch Chorister, Alec Provich is Branch Clerk, and Edgar Seaman is in charge of Statistics. As Supervisor of the Genealogical Society Norma Ninow, with counsellors Ivan Muir and Denise Osborne and Secretary Calvin Donly.

LUANSHYA BRANCH

Branch President: Douglas E. Charsley, 130 E Avenue.

Reported by Jeanne Charsley.

Now that the Van Deventer, Spear and Charsley families have returned from their vacations our little branch is back to its normal proportions.

We would like to thank the members of the Port Elizabeth Branch who so graciously helped us to get to and from meetings during our stay there. A special vote of appreciation goes to Brother Vincent Doller, who arrived at the camping ground one day with a tasty roasted chicken and delicious chocolate cake (with currants) for the visitors. This treat he prepared with his own hands and absolutely no previous experience! Which goes to show the truth of President Wright's words at Convention, "Enthusiasm will overcome ALL obstacles."

We are sorry that Brother Ernest Terblanche is at present in the hospital with bronchitis, and hope that he will be well soon.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Elder Ben R. Olsen to Northern Rhodesia.

SERVICES HELD IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION

Mowbray Branch,
Cor. Main and Grove Rds.,
Mowbray, Cape.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting ... 7.00

Bellville Branch,
"Zerin," Mayville Street,
Kingston Estate,
Bellville, C.P.
Sunday School 10.00
Sacrament Meeting 6.00

Epping Garden Sunday School,
19, Saldanha Road,
Epping Garden, C.P.
Sunday School 10.00

Port Elizabeth Branch,
Sons of England Hall,
Bingley Street,
Port Elizabeth, C.P.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Salisbury Branch,
Polytechnical School,
5th Street, SBY.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 8.00

Pretoria Branch,
Pretoria Ladies' Club,
Sanlam Building
Sunday School 10.15
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Krugersdorp Branch,
Boy Scout Hall,
Cor. Boshoff and
Von Brandis St.
Sunday School 10.00
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Bloemfontein Branch,
City Hall,
Bloemfontein.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.30

Luanshya Branch,
56 "Z" Avenue,
Northern Rhodesia.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Vereeniging Branch,
Sons of England Hall,
Vereeniging, Tvl.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.30

East London Branch,
Boy Scout Hall,
Fleet Street,
Sunday School 10.00
Sacrament Meeting 7.30

Durban Branch,
Scottish Masonic Temple,
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Ramah Branch,
395, Commissioner Street,
Fairview, Johannesburg.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 7.30

Springs Branch,
Masonic Hall.
Sunday School 10.15
Sacrament Meeting 7.00

Northwestern Branch,
195 Kemp Ave.,
Waterfall Estate.
Sunday School 10.30
Sacrament Meeting 5.00

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